

Appl. No. 10/624,236
Docket No. H1535-00019
Reply to Office Action dated June 20, 2005

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following amended version:

[0026] Referring to Figs. 1 – 5, die set 2 comprises an upper shoe 25 attached to and carried by ram 11, and a mating lower die shoe 26 secured to bolster plate 12 in a conventional manner well known in the art. Two or more guide posts 30 project downwardly from upper die shoe 25, and are received within internal passageways 32 of correspondingly positioned guide bushings 31 mounted in lower die shoe 26. In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, six mating pairs of guide posts 30 and guide bushings 31 are arranged on upper die shoe 25 and lower die shoe 26. Each guide post 30 includes a recess 33 defined at a free end 34 (Fig. 8). Upper die shoe 25 also includes a ram coupler comprising a recess ~~[[24]]~~ 22 defined in a top surface. Ram coupler ~~[[24]]~~ 22 is adapted to non-fixedly engage complementarily shaped bulbous protrusion ~~[[22]]~~ 24 on the end of ram 11. The engagement is such that ram 11 can force upper die shoe 25 downwardly toward lower die shoe 26. Some relative motion is permitted within the coupling between ram 11 and upper die shoe 25 as a result of the implementation of stripper-plate alignment system 5.